

FREEDOM WALK

★ AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU ★

★ SEPTEMBER 11 ★



America Supports You Freedom Walks

BACKGROUND:

In 2005, Pentagon employees wishing to commemorate the attack on the Pentagon and honor the lives lost on September 11, 2001, created what has become a new national tradition - the *America Supports You Freedom Walk*. Over 15,000 people walked from the Pentagon to the National Mall to pay tribute to those who died; renew their commitment to freedom and the values of our country; and honor our veterans, past and present. The response from people across the country who learned of that first *America Supports You Freedom Walk* was overwhelming. The following year, in addition to the National Walk, 135 *ASY Freedom Walks* sprang up across the country. Last year, the number continued to grow as Americans everywhere embraced the idea, in fact 255 *ASY Freedom Walks* took place in every state in the nation, as well as in Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, Italy, Guam, Japan, Kuwait and Canada.

WHO CAN HOST:

The appeal of holding *ASY Freedom Walks* is taking root at the most basic levels of our society. Last year, 123 schools across the country hosted *America Supports You Freedom Walks*. Students and teachers found that *ASY Freedom Walks* are not only a meaningful way to capture the significance of 9/11, but offer an important history and civics lesson for students.

HOW:

- In Sebring, Ohio, a 10-year-old hosted 1000 people for his second annual *ASY Freedom Walk*. The walk began at B.L. Elementary School and ended at the town's Veterans Memorial. The walk was backed by the school principal and town mayor. The youth also had a "Scribe for Soldiers" table, where everyone wrote postcards to the troops.
- All 50 of the Killeen, Texas Independent School District's campuses held *ASY Freedom Walks* and that evening the Killeen community joined together for a walk. Schools did everything from making a human American flag to walking in silence 6 times around their school to commemorate the 6th anniversary.
- In Paramus, N.J., Mayor Jim Tedesco and U.S. Congressman Scott Garrett along with 400 Paramus residents joined a first walk organized by a 12-year-old. All participants received a decorated bag filled with a donated water bottle, granola bar and a letter thanking people for taking the walk of remembrance. This youth has since written and published a book called "20 Steps to Host a Freedom Walk" to teach students his age how to organize an *ASY Freedom Walk*.
- A school teacher in Zachary, La., whose husband served in Iraq, organized an *ASY Freedom Walk* at Zachary Elementary School. The school invited local leaders, members of the military, and the Zachary High's JROTC to present colors. The students carried pictures of those they wished to honor as they walked. A special tribute was given to the school's principal who was called to active duty during the school year.

ASY Freedom Walks are becoming a part of the fabric of our country. The demonstration of schools gathering together to remember this significant day and those protecting our freedom is a powerful message which is felt by our Armed Forces both at home and abroad.

To learn more about how you can host an *America Supports You Freedom Walk* please visit
www.AmericaSupportsYou.mil

